

Application No.: 09/869,660

Docket No.: N7419.0028

In the Claims:

Please replace the claims with the following:

Claim 1 (Canceled).

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a modified polyphenylene ether resin, which comprises:

reacting a mixture of 100 parts by weight of (A) a polyphenylene ether having a main chain structure of the following formula (1) [as represented in claim 1]



wherein R₁ and R₂ each independently represents hydrogen, a primary or secondary lower alkyl, a phenyl, an aminoalkyl or a hydrocarboxy, and R₃ and R₄ each independently represents hydrogen, a primary or secondary lower alkyl or phenyl, and 0.01 to 10 parts by weight of (B) a modifier selected from the group consisting of conjugated non-aromatic diene compounds, dienophilic compounds having one dienophile group and precursors of the diene or dienophilic compounds at a temperature not lower than a room temperature and not higher than the melting point of (A) wherein the reaction to obtain the modified polyphenylene ether resin is carried out in a state where the polyphenylene ether is a solid.

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Claim 8 (Original) The process for preparing a modified polyphenylene ether resin according to claim 7, wherein the polyphenylene ether (A) is in the form of powder obtained by precipitation from a solution and has a melting point of 240 to 260°C.

Claim 9 (Original) The process for preparing a modified polyphenylene ether resin according to claim 7, wherein the reaction temperature is within a range of 100 to 230°C.

Claim 10 (Original) The process for preparing a modified polyphenylene ether resin according to claim 7, wherein the reaction temperature is within a range of 150 to 200°C.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn).

Claim 12 (Original) The process for preparing a modified polyphenylene ether resin according to claim 7, wherein a Henschel mixer is employed upon preparation.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn).

Claim 14 (Original) The process for preparing a modified polyphenylene ether resin according to claim 7, wherein the modifier (B) is maleic anhydride, maleic acid, fumaric acid, phenyl maleimide, itaconic acid, malic acid, glycidyl acrylate or glycidyl methacrylate.

Claim 15 (Original) The process for preparing a modified polyphenylene ether resin according to claim 7, wherein 0.2 to 3.0 parts by weight of the modifier (B) is reacted with 100 parts by weight of the polyphenylene ether (A).